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Student Association Elects New Officers to Fulfill 2005-2006 Academic Year

By Jacob Lofgren, Staff Writer

The Presidential Election of 2004 is now far behind us, but elsewhere in the world important elections are still taking place. One important election that should have had the eye of every Saint Joseph's College student is the Student Association elections. Held November 13-16 outside of registration, this year's election featured a small, yet qualified, field of candidates from a variety of backgrounds.

Heather Mikus, a junior biology-chemistry major from Lincoln Park, Michigan, sought and received reelection as your Student Association President. When asked about her goals in a second term, Mikus responded, "I hope to continue to work with Traditions Committee. [I want to continue] looking at ways of improving Little 500 and Homecoming so that more students, staff, and alumni will

get involved. I think that this is an incredibly important goal since a large majority of Student Association budget goes towards this activity." Mikus also hopes to assist the Student Union Board as they work to restructure their current Constitution so that more students can and will become involved in the organization. Mikus notes her thoughts going into a second term: "I am very excited about another year. It is going to be a much smoother transition this semester. I think that the continuity provided by a returning executive board and keeping the same senate will allow us to get to work and get things done right away."

Mikus will receive support from her newly elected Vice-President Amanda Bartz. Bartz, a junior elementary education major from Antioch, Illinois, replaces Marissa Klebs, who

decided not to seek reelection for a second term. When reached for comment, Vice-President Bartz emphasizes her desire to start an on-campus recycling program that would include the residence halls. She also indicated a desire to, "do the best that I can to support, represent, and help our student body." Bartz promises to "work hard and make sure that ALL students' concerns are addressed and considered." Both Mikus and Bartz look forward to a year of progress and positive change for the Saint Joseph's College campus and students.

Also elected were Secretary Shelly Osborn and Treasurer Rachel Jarrard. Osborn is a junior psychology major from Machesney Park, Illinois, and Jarrard is a junior biology-chemistry major from Logansport, Indiana. Osborn and Jarrard both will be serving in

their first terms. Osborn replaces the outgoing Caleb Kopczyk, who has spent the past year revamping the Student Association constitution and creating new procedures for the Student Senate. Jarrard takes the position previously held by Amanda Hartle, who was able to fulfill the budget requests of nearly every club in her final semester. Working to improve the overall conditions for students as well as building on the work of the outgoing officers is a goal shared by both incoming officers.

The Observer thanks all the outgoing officers for their time and efforts over the course of the past year. We also wish the best of luck to Mikus, Bartz, Osborn, and Jarrard as they work for the good of the Saint Joseph's College campus and its students.

P.E. Students Stretch Their Minds at Rensselaer Care Center

By Becky Scherer, Publications and Media Relations Intern

"Movement, movement, movement!" stresses Dr. Pat Querry, Assistant Professor of Physical Education at Saint Joseph's College. Affectionately referred to as "The Colonel" by former clients, Querry's health expertise lies in exercise physiology. To that end, she has taken her Exercise Physiology class into the Rensselaer Care Center several times this November to expose students to hands-on evaluations and studies.

"I'm hoping the students can bring the knowledge they've gained through this study back to their own families. They'll be able to prescribe an exercise program for grandparents or any other family members," Querry said.

Each of the 16 participating students was assigned personal clients with whom they met three times. The students first did a screening test of nutrition habits and current exercise routines,

then assessed the results and designed an exercise program according to the needs of each client. Remaining visits were spent teaching different strengthening exercises and monitoring individual progress. "These students are traveling out of their comfort zones and entering apprehensive territory. A lot of young people aren't comfortable around the elderly," she said, "but they're succeeding despite any former reservations. It's amazing to see the progress they are making with their clients, both physically and mentally. SJC should be proud."

According to Beth Cummins, Assistant Activities Director for Rensselaer Care Center, the College should also be thanked. While the center has a strong physical therapy program, groups like these keep residents active and allow them to vary their daily routine. "We've had a few different groups from SJC come

by to play Bingo, sing songs, and read aloud to people. A lot of them don't receive young visitors, so they have a ball when the students are here," she said. "The kind of one-on-one attention they get is a gift from Heaven."

Querry believes her students benefit from that gift as much as

the residents who receive it. "They're learning first-hand exactly what it feels like to change a life. It's one thing to teach the information and watch them learn it, but it's quite another to give them the opportunity to apply it with real people."



Casey Hall and Rensselaer Care Center resident Elnora Barbosza share high-fives after completing exercises

Photo and caption courtesy of Breann Ma'Ayeh, Director of Publications and Media Relations.

All Campus Pre-Christmas Mass

MONDAY, DEC. 13 -- 8:00 PM, CHAPEL

*All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
Music provided by the SJC Concert Choir.*

Decorating of the Chapel will take place after 9 PM Mass on Sunday, Dec. 12. All are encouraged to help, and pizza will be served.

Drexel Hall: Protector of the Faith

By Fr. Dominic Gerlach, C.P.P.S., Professor Emeritus of History and German

[In response to the November 11 issue of *The Observer* which featured the article entitled "Acknowledging the Uncomfortable Truth of Drexel Hall," written by Dr. Mark Seely.]

After reading Professor Mark Seely's superbly written article on the "Uncomfortable Truth of Drexel Hall," I felt something big was missing in the picture.

Bishop Joseph Dwenger, C.P.P.S., had a different idea for the St. Joseph Indian Normal School, 1888-1896. To him, its primary purpose was to protect the faith of Roman Catholic Indian children who would otherwise be proselytized in completing government and Protestant off-reservation boarding schools. This school's purpose, then, was the same as that of the thousands of parochial schools being built at the time in a country when Roman Catholicism was regarded as an undesirable "sect" with doubtful Christian credentials and perhaps even less national loyalty.

It was for the same reason that Dwenger authorized the building of Saint Joseph's College. Catholic schools flourished in those years because of the large number of selfless, faith-inspired,

dedicated nuns, brothers, and priests who worked for a mere pittance for this noble cause. The Indian school was similar to the College, except for the federal government funding that was part of a national policy to support Indian mission schools, a policy that was cheaper and presumably more humane and effective in making Indian children accept the "white man's road."

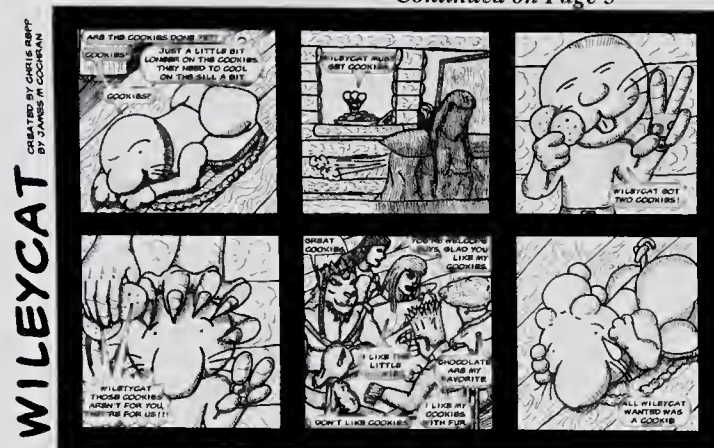
The "protection of the faith" reason is clear in the very first letter to St. Katharine Drexel. "Normal" meant preparing Indian catechists for the reservations where priests were too few in number, as Drexel often complained. So she pumped \$50,000 into this project at Rensselaer, including several buildings and equipment, plus the 420 acre farm. The original College building, 1891, meanwhile, cost only \$38,000, not including the 320 acres donated by the bishop.

The Indian pupils, many of them in their upper teens,

provided the choir for the College cornerstone laying, July 6, 1890. They presumably sang in Latin! The College students interacted regularly with the Indians, who repeatedly showed their superiority in baseball. There were even two Indian pupils from the Indian school attending classes at the College, 1891-1892. They were seminarians for the priesthood, an ambitious hope that failed.

St. Joseph Indian Normal School was not allowed to recruit by force or recruit non-Catholics. A C.P.P.S. priest or brother traveled annually to the reservations to recruit, where his reception was friendly, largely because he was perceived as the kindly French "Black Robes" of years before. The recruiter's argument was directed primarily to the mothers who were

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What's Love Got To Do With It?

By Bob Jansen, Columnist

"Christine, I love you. [...] You alone can make my song take flight. It's over now, the music of the night!"

In the final scene of Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Phantom of the Opera*, the Phantom gives Christine an ultimatum: if Christine refuses to live out the rest of her life with the Phantom, the Phantom will murder her fiancé. At the very end of this scene, Christine kisses the Phantom and he changes his mind. He allows Christine and her fiancé to escape. His final words are quoted above. The Phantom finally understood the key to love and sacrificed his own selfish interests. He gave Christine the freedom to love whomever she chose.

The lesson learned in *Phantom of the Opera* gives an insight into my views of love. Love is not the bliss felt during sex or the prideful feeling knowing someone cares for you. Love is a sacrifice. In fact, love is

ultimately a paradox. We spend all of our lives trying to find love, but we do not find it until we stop focusing on selfish interests and turn our focus to other people.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (15:13). I think that Jesus may be trying to dig a bit into the human mind. He cannot expect us to look for opportunities to give up our lives, but He can expect us to give up our interests to help others.

Looking at my own life, I see that my parents sacrificed a lot in order to help me not only excel but remain alive. When I was just a teenager, Mom told me I needed to learn how to inject myself with insulin. I was horrified at the idea. Dad had injected me with insulin for the duration of my memory, and I assumed he would follow me to graduate school and continue giving me injections. In order to put me at ease, Dad took a needle and inserted it in his own skin.

He demonstrated on himself all the necessary procedures so that I could see just how to do it.

Despite what many people may say, injections hurt. My father, in putting my interests and well-being before his own wants, showed a beautiful example of love. Perhaps he did not give up his own life in that action, but he did give up his comfort. He also gave much of his strength throughout my life. Despite the fact that I would often cry or squeeze my mom's hand when it hurt, Dad had to continue giving me injections, knowing the pain each injection caused.

Love is found in sacrifice and action. When a high school student visits his grandfather instead of going to a football game, he is showing love. It is a sign of love when an older brother stays by a sibling who is afraid of the dark. We will probably never be faced with an event in which it is literally someone else's life versus our own. However, we are faced with

situations where it is another person's well-being versus our own every day. I think Jesus is telling us that we need to step out of our comfort zones and turn our attention to those around us.

As we approach Christmas, perhaps this is a good time to consider how we love others. Do we only love others when it benefits us? Do we try to trap others into loving us, like the Phantom? Everywhere we turn, people tell us that the true joy of Christmas is in giving. Perhaps instead of giving gifts this year, give the gift of yourself. Spend a few hours with your grandparents. Read to younger cousins. Call a distant relative. Call a distant friend. Physical gifts fade and get thrown away, but memories last a lifetime. Love recklessly and you may be surprised at the result. The music of the night will end, and the music found in the Light of Christ will begin.

FEATURED PHILOSOPHICAL FARCE

By Matt LeClaire, Columnist

Just the Check, Please

In days long passed, there lived a calf. The calf was a jolly ol' calf that loved to make others happy. She would make little treats for her friends that tantalized taste buds and sent senses soaring. One day, someone approached her and asked her to make treats for money. She was hesitant, but decided that doing what she loved for money was not a bad thing. The man employed her as head cook at the Old Berg Inn. For the first few months, her delectables were all the rage. People would come for blocks just to taste one of her famous cheese quesadillas. All was well.

After a time, the calf stopped worrying about pleasing people and made food just to keep a paycheck. The food was still good, but not what it had been. Her customers dwindled, but it didn't matter since the food was included in the room charge at the inn. Now, she was receiving more money and didn't have to cater to as many customers. Less supply, less demand, same amount of money; what more could a small bovine ask for?

Eventually, the calf started buying very cheap goods to make the food. Customers who wanted to get their money's worth complained, but to no avail. As

long as they were unhappy, the calf was rolling in dough. Soon, consumers would do anything to avoid the calf's productions, which she so audaciously called "food."

To this day, the calf continues producing edible substances. She is still employed and shows no signs of stopping her ways. Meetings and countless observation documents have been thrown at her only to be met with defensive responses. No revolution has taken place; there is no catharsis, only a line of people waiting to use the facilities.

Attention Writers:

The *Measure* staff is currently accepting magazine submissions.

For more information, contact:

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measure

the literary society of Saint Joseph's College

PAWS:

...to everyone who has submitted original work to *Measure* magazine.



CLAWS:

...to the cafeteria staff for closing the doors on the GCS volunteers.

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concerned about the faith of their children and also feared submitting their offspring to the reputed harsher discipline of other Indian schools. Thus, many Indian children were already partly acculturated. A sizeable number bore French surnames and were listed as one quarter and even one eighth Indian in blood, thanks to the earlier French fur traders. Even then, the school's principal problem was runaways. Most were quickly retrieved cold, hungry, and scared, and sometimes sent home in a safer manner. The local director appreciated how closely Indian children were attached to their families, impeding any further education.

Why did the school close after only eight years? The immediate occasion was the withdrawal of government funds. However,

other Catholic Indian schools on the reservations also lost government funds, but they initially remained open. Off-reservation boarding schools were seen as unwise and enforced acculturation was simply a bad idea.

Finally, I apologize for not having given this aspect of the Indian school's history more space in my published study of 31 year ago. First, I had to reduce its size, and secondly, I didn't want to jeopardize its acceptance in the face of the "prevailing wisdom" of the time. I am less intimidated now!

Again, this is in no way intended to reflect negatively on Dr. Seely's excellent article, which depicts accurately the official Indian acculturation policy of those years.

Covenant House

Candlelight Vigil



Donate your gently used tee shirts to homeless children around the world.

THURSDAY, DEC. 9 -- 4:30 IN THE CHAPEL

Sponsored by Campus Ministry and the Puma soccer teams

A Look at Saint Francis Xavier, Patron of C.P.P.S.

By BJ Houlding, Staff Writer

December 3rd marked the feast day of Saint Francis Xavier. It is an important day to the C.P.P.S., and, thusly, to Saint Joseph's College itself. The saint helped to start a new branch of Catholicism and traveled the world in the 1500's when large-scale travel adventures were unheard of. Read on to find out about the life of the man now known as the patron of all foreign missions.

Xavier was born in his family's castle on April 7th, 1506. At the age of nineteen, he was sent to the University of Paris. During his studies there, he met Ignatius Loyola, an already acknowledged theologian scholar of the times. Loyola convinced him to start his life anew and in 1534 Xavier joined Loyola and five others to found the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits. He was ordained in 1537.

After the Society was officially recognized by the pope in 1540, the group started to plan pilgrimages. Their first thoughts were to travel to Jerusalem, but the trip never materialized. Instead, they were asked by King

John III of Portugal to help convert the Far East. Xavier traveled first to Africa, spending a year speaking to the Arabs and spending six months in Mozambique. He finally arrived in Goa, India, in 1542. From there, he traveled the Far East, including such locations as Malaysia, the Philippines, and Japan. In 1551, Loyola named him the first provincial of India. He set out for China later that year, but died on the island of Sanican in 1552, just miles from the mainland. He was buried a few weeks later in Goa, where it is said the people already thought of him as a saint.

Legends claim Xavier to have had the gift of healing, gift of tongues, and that he even raised the dead, although the latter is not modernly believed. It is also doubtful that he had the gift of tongues, and instead used translators to speak with the natives. He is known today for his healing power and tremendous charisma, despite the language and culture barriers he faced. It is estimated that, in his duration in Asia, he converted

over 50,000 non-believers to the Catholic faith.

He was beatified by Pope Paul V in 1619 and canonized three years later by Pope Gregory XV. Pope Pius X later declared him the patron of all foreign missions.



Image courtesy of <http://www.geocities.com/Hearthland/Village/2603/images/stfrnx.jpg>

Promoting Life at SJC: Right To Life Baby Shower 2004

By Casey Wagner, Staff Writer

On November 14 at 2pm the Core Building played host to the annual Right to Life Baby Shower. This year's event was put together by sophomore Elizabeth Wissel and junior Amie White. Wissel explained that the purpose of "the Right to Life Baby Shower is a fun way to help raise supplies for the local Birthright."

Birthright is a pro-life organization that offers alternatives to abortion for women with unplanned pregnancies. By the SJC

donation of maternity clothes and baby supplies, Right to Life is helping to uphold their core values. Right to Life is a group that is dedicated to protecting life in all its stages, from conception to death.

Even though this was Wissel's first year planning the shower, she said that it was a success. With twelve people in attendance, they had plenty of time for enjoying delicious snacks they had prepared with the help of Ary Nelson the night before, playing exciting games such as pin-the-

diaper-on-the-baby, courtesy of game chair Giselle Salina, and collecting many helpful baby items.

On the horizon for Right to Life is Cutting for Cuties, a party in which they make simple baby clothes; Baby Blanket Bash, in which the members will make birthday cards for elderly people in nursing homes on a monthly basis; and taking a trip on January 22 (the day that abortion was legalized by the Supreme Court in 1973) to Washington D.C. to participate in the annual

Right to Life March. They are also working on a teen suicide awareness project to help enrich their core values.

Right to Life has made this year a giant success, and as they prepare for their upcoming events, remember that you, too, have the chance to become involved. If you are interested in obtaining more information regarding Right to Life or any of their events, contact president Katy Rasco.



Image courtesy of <http://www.webhart.net/vandee/lifelogo.gif>

SJC Choir Travels to BSU for Milestone Performance

By Renee Pugh, Staff Writer

On November 20, the Saint Joseph's College Choir traveled to Ball State University to collaborate with the BSU choir on *Carmina Burana*, a text penned by monks between 733 and 1300 and set to music by 20th century composer Carl Orff.

"The texts are about love, drinking, and sex," explains SJC and BSU choral director Todd Samra. "This is odd, considering they were penned by monks." Samra, who is in the process of receiving his doctorate in Music from BSU, chose the piece for many reasons, amongst the most important being the excitement and passion it inspires in students. "The piece is useful for getting students [involved]. It is visceral and exciting in itself," explained Samra. "Music from the classical period, such as Mozart, does not elicit the same response. I chose this piece to excite the students."

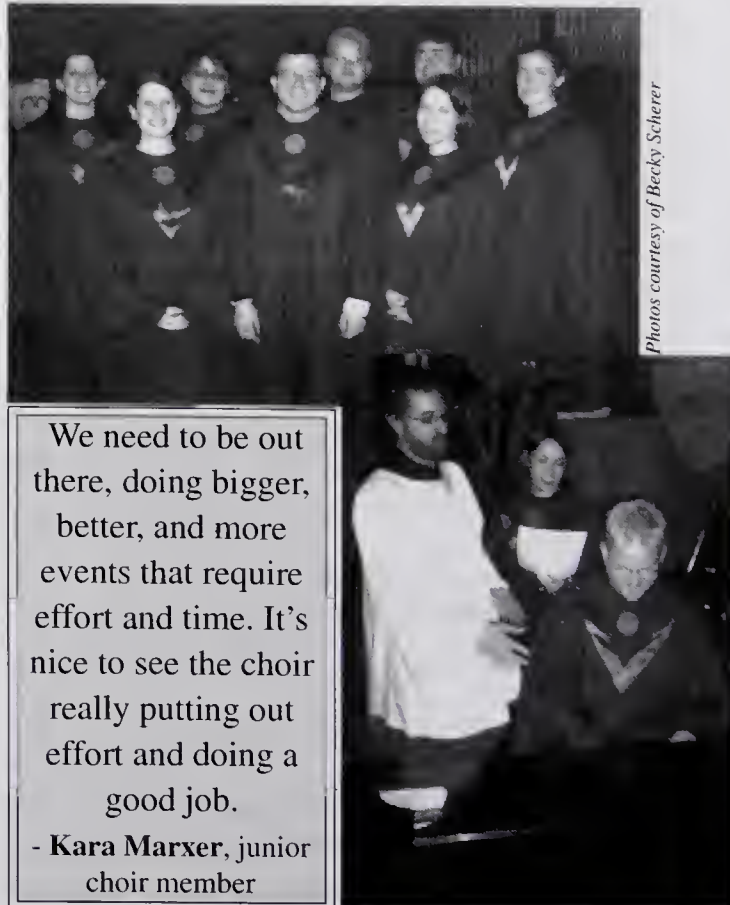
Samra also chose *Carmina* because of the challenge it

introduced to students. "It is not the most difficult piece out there, but it is a very advanced piece of music," said Samra. He used this difficulty in order to make students aware of the manner in which music professes, from practice to performance. "This performance [of *Carmina*] is really a vehicle for teaching music. It shows them the process," he explained. "At the beginning, many students doubted their ability to perform this piece. However, by the performance [at BSU], they learned a lot about themselves and their abilities; they realized that they were capable of doing more."

Carmina also has the benefit of being a very popular piece of music. "It is Orff's most famous composition," said Samra. "It sells out every time it is performed." This performance was no different, as more than 700 people crowded into the new Sursa Hall music center at BSU,

leaving many spectators with standing room only. "The performance was incredible," said Samra. "This success really gives students a good feeling to walk away with."

Samra hopes that this performance of *Carmina*, as well as next semester's planned performance of Faure's *Requiem*, will facilitate furthering SJC's music program. "These two pieces will help students, as they are so different from one another," he explained. "*Requiem* is the opposite of *Carmina*; it is contemplative and spiritual, while *Carmina* is more exciting and harsh." Samra hopes that these two pieces will facilitate his long-term goal of furthering SJC's music program. "I want to build the best choir program in Indiana," he stated. "If you build up your choir and make them the priority, great things will happen. This performance is evidence of that; it was something they were doing, that they worked hard on."



Photos courtesy of Becky Scherer

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



photo courtesy of www.decemberists.com

The Decemberists *Her Majesty The Decemberists*

The Decemberists, a group of five ne'er-do-wells from Portland, Oregon, has been gracing the Indie scene since 2001. In that amount of time, the band has released two EPs, two full-length albums, and will be issuing another record in March. This band's unique music is full of instruments that are not common to the everyday pop song. Their music is full of the sounds of the accordion, upright bass, glockenspiel, synthesizers, and more. If that wasn't enough to make their music eclectic, main man Colin Meloy's lyrics just happen to be a creative writing major's dream. Every song is a small narrative full of inimitable characters. Their last album, "Her Majesty The Decemberists," is no exception as it tells the tales of pirates, a gymnast, Myla Goldberg, and other alluring characters.

"Her Majesty" opens with a blood curdling scream in "Shanty for Arethusa." Front man Meloy sings about a sea man's voyage. Jenny Conlee's accordion accents the strumming of Meloy's guitar. The song progresses to an explosion of drums and clashing cymbals mixed with upright bass and accordion. "Shanty" follows a pattern of crescendo and decrescendo, ending in one final explosion. "Billy Liar" is the single off of this album. The fun sound of this song is created by Conlee's keyboarding skills. The merry melody line she plays helps tell the story of a bored Billy Liar and will bring a smile upon the listener's face. As the album advances to the song "The Bachelor and the Bride," Meloy tells a story of infanticide. His wonderful use of imagery can be found in lines like "There's a wrinkle in the water, where we laid our first daughter." Each phrase tells a delicate part of the story. Nate Query's intricate bass playing, along with drummer Rachel Blumberg's backing vocals, add much more emotion to this morose song. "The Soldering Life" takes an interesting perspective on a war-like situation. Meloy's innovative mind has composed lyrics that take on the idea of love between soldiers; two male soldiers, that is. "Red Right Ankle" is perhaps the most poetic song on this entire album. While the melody of this song is quite simple, lines such as "They Crawled their way into your heart/ to rend your ventricles apart" linger in the listener's ear. "The Chimbley Sweep" starts off with a bang! Conlee's accordion is showcased in this song while fellow guitarist Chris Funk accentuates with his own chord progressions. Blumberg also sings a few lines in this piece, telling the audience she has not been "swept" since the day her husband died. Scandalous! In the end, this band proves to be very unique in both their lyrics and sound.

The Decemberists can be found on Kill Rock Stars. If you find them aurally pleasing, remember that their new album, "Picaresque," will be released in March. For information, visit www.decemberists.com.



The New Faces of SJC's SUB

By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

There's a new face of SJC's Student Union Board (SUB), six of them to be exact. Just a few weeks after the previous Student Union Board resigned, twelve to fifteen new students began participating, as well as six new members of the executive board: Jackie Keefe, Kirsten Magnuson, Scott Miller, Vanessa Sanchez, Jerry Speicher, and Ben Ulm.

"I'm one of the changes. There is a whole new group of people who are rethinking the way SUB does things," said Co-Director of Promotions Ben Ulm.

Agenda changes affected SUB's new goals for the year. The new plan attempts to accommodate for other events, such as sports games, into the entertainment dates so conflicts would be less frequent and more athletes could participate.

"We are having a big push to get eighty percent of the students to want to go to the events. Actually, for the first time we're having baseball, basketball, and track players in SUB who can tell us exactly what they want or don't want," said President Anthony Pentangelo.

SUB wanted to please larger crowds of people willing to turn out for events and sign more acts tailored to the student body. "We are trying to think more about the

type of crowd we want to attract and get people's opinions. Our goal for this new SUB is to get more involvement and exposure and to make a bigger name for ourselves. SUB's purpose is to get people who usually stay in or have too much going on involved. The club itself has become a much more diverse group coming up with the ideas, getting the word out, and getting new input from the campus," said Vice President Vanessa Sanchez. Sanchez joined when the latest board was forming and new committee members were being recruited to bring a fresh outlook for SUB.

"I got talked into joining SUB at the activities callout, went to a meeting, and ended up going back every week. My favorite part is helping to organize the events and put my say into it," said Secretary Kirsten Magnuson who helped set up the carnival and ran the bingo table during Lil' Sibs Weekend with a record turnout of sixty-seven sibs. With a larger budget than other clubs, SUB could offer contracts to more popular comedians and bands, providing one to two big events per year along with regular events. SUB also combined with other clubs like Intramural Sports for events such as the Halo 2 Tournament, and

independently brought acts such as Tom Cotter, Clay Ratcliff, and the 80s hair band Son of Glam costume dance.

Brainstorming, past experiences from high school, and the NACA convention, which boasted 500 showcases of entertainers in three days, helped SUB members come up with new ideas for extracurricular activities. Student input was heavily relied upon as well. "The comedians seem to be a big hit, next semester will be the hypnotist, and we are also looking into a group with comedy magic tricks along with more dances, which students have been requesting," said Co-Director of Promotions Jerry Speicher.

Second semester promises events such as Two Skinny Dorks, Rolling Stones's number one unsigned artists, and Mr. and Miss Puma in April. All students are welcome to attend Student Union Board meetings, usually held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., and contribute their own ideas for entertainment, or to speak with a SUB member and give feedback on events. The transition period has highlighted ways to improve SUB and the events, and the new, stronger face of the SJC Student Union Board is emerging.



Movie Review: *The Polar Express*

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer



A derailed train chugging over a frozen lake is not the first thing one thinks of when given the topic of children's holiday films; perhaps, then, this is one of the many reasons for the popularity for the new Warner Bros. flick "The Polar Express."

The plotline for the movie is rather interesting: a boy travels a train to the North Pole with a clockwatching conductor in order to cement his wavering belief in Santa Claus, all along the way going through treacherous terrain and interesting circumstances, helped out by his new friends on the train and a random hobo. What makes the plot even more interesting is that six characters (including the boy, Santa, the hobo, and the conductor) are voiced by Tom Hanks.

Director Robert Zemeckis is no stranger to animation and special effects in film, having directed "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" and the "Back to the Future" trilogy. Also, the film brings Hanks and Zemeckis together again after 2000's "Cast Away" and the 1994 classic "Forrest Gump."

According to some critiques of "The Polar Express," the movie is contrived merely to bring itself into instant Christmas classic status; however, this is simply not the case. As far as holiday movies go, particularly those aimed at children, "The Polar Express" is an exceptionally original movie, going on a more profound level than most holiday films will dare. Roger Ebert writes, "There's a deeper, shivery tone, instead of the mindless jolliness of the usual Christmas movie." Indeed, the movie definitely goes into the spirit of Christmas in a way pleasing to both younger and older audiences, bringing them together with fantastic animation, epic scenery, and a more sophisticated ending than most holiday movies can shell out.

Stuff



by Brian Bugajski

Dances: the occasions where we all dress our best, guys have a reason to wear suits, and women have an excuse to spend hours doing their hair and make-up. Dances are social traditions that date back to Medieval times when lords and ladies donned their finest attire in hopes of impressing, and possibly wooing, a member of the opposite sex.

Traditions go through phases as time goes by, and the gallant balls of our ancestors have gone through the phases of 1920s speakeasies, 1950s big band/swing dancing, and 1980s raves only to arrive at our present, very physical, dance style. In light of last weekend's Winter Formal, this issue's Stuff column will cover the history of SJC student dances over the last seventy years.

The first formal dance the students of SJC were allowed to hold was on May 1, 1937. The Saint Joseph's Collegian of 1937 recounts that it was "the crowning social climax," of the 1936-37 scholastic year for the "fifty male students, many alumni, and

numerous friends when they attended the Monogram Formal Dance." It was said that, "from the faintest tap of the drum to the stately dignity of the host, Reverend F.L. Fehrenbacher, C.P.P.S., the quality of elegance and class was outstanding." It is not known whether the Monogram Formal Dance was held annually after that first year, however, the next dance that was chronicled took place off campus in 1942.

How do you hold a dance for an all-male, Catholic school in 1942? Easy: you take 60 members of the Commerce Club to a Catholic women's college. "On Saturday, January 17, 1942, 60 members of the Commerce Club journeyed to St. Francis College of Joliet, Illinois, a Catholic women's college, to be guests of the students at a dinner dance," states the St. Joseph's Chronology. This dinner dance of 1942 was the first in a series of dances referred to as "mixers" by the administration. The mixers were continued for another twenty-five years until the arrival of women students on campus in the fall of 1968. Most of the mixers took place off campus at the hosting women's college; however, there were some hosted on-campus. One such mixer caused the gentlemen of SJC to show their gallantry when 250 women were stranded here due to an unexpected snow storm in April of 1961. "The Pumas chivalrously gave up their rooms in Halas and Gallagher halls for the women that night, while they themselves found less

comfortable sleeping quarters in the Fieldhouse and Raleigh Hall," states the Pictorial History of SJC.

An orchestra was present at all of the mixers, and continued to be until the use of amplified albums and cassettes in the late 70's. Live bands have been employed at dances sparsely over the past two decades, with the most recent being at last year's Spring Semi-Formal.

The last phase that dances of SJC went through before reaching their present state was the senior prom. The last senior prom was in May, 1971, off campus at the Holiday Inn in Lafayette. In May 1972, in lieu of a senior prom, a "Happy Hour" champagne buffet dinner and semi-formal junior-senior spring dance was held. It took place on April 15 as part of Little 500 weekend.

The "Happy Hour" champagne buffet dinner and semi-formal Junior-Senior dance was the precursor to our modern day winter and spring formals. Though dances have evolved over the years, their intent has stayed the same.

Last Saturday, the gentlemen of SJC had a reason to wear their suits, the ladies had an excuse to spend hours on their hair and make-up, and everyone had a wonderful time,* all thanks to our predecessors who pushed for the Monogram Formal Dance of 1937.

* Special thanks to Jessica Harris and her crew for another successful Winter Formal!

Bringing Down the House

By Joe Larson, Staff Writer

Over the years, I have made my fair share of failed jokes that have been received with blank stares, frightened glances, or anger in the form of a mob with torches and pitchforks (I probably should have been nicer at the Arsonist Farmer Convention). However, at the risk of being called a hypocrite (or in admittance of being one), I must find fault with Alex House, who did a comedy routine in the SJC theater a few weeks ago. What exactly went wrong? For starters, she opened with a poem - and not a funny one either. Her poem was an emotional plea for the freedom of speech. She implored the powers that be not to limit her creative prowess, just as they would not tell a painter what not to paint or a poacher what not to poach. Actually, she failed to mention the poachers, a critical mistake given the high percentage of condor hunters in the audience that night.

She talked about her strict Irish Catholic mother, her dumb husband, the isolation of rural Indiana, and our "stupid" President. For a

punch line, she kept hitting herself on the head and making a thunking noise with the microphone. If I were eight, or maybe if I was a caveman, this would have been funny - once. She also did a Star Wars rap. It was strange and long, which made me feel obliged to reward her with a pity clap, also known as the "please don't do that again" clap. Bright spots during her routine included the use of the phrases "wild midget sex" and "man berries," but such strokes of perverted genius were few and far between.

When watching comedians on TV, they appear to be hilarious because they have huge audiences that laugh hysterically. Even though the jokes themselves might not be that amusing, TV viewers are sheep who instinctively imitate the actions of the laughing masses in front of them. I think if there had been a larger audience, the "sheep effect" might have kicked in and House's routine might have seemed funnier. Since this failed to happen, however, I must say that her performance was less than hilarious.

Mission: Improvable Visits SJC

By Katie Grgic, Staff Writer

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, will be challenging and even dangerous: make it to the end of this article describing what an entertaining night of comedy you missed if you did not attend Mission: Improvable's visit to the SJC campus prior to Thanksgiving Break. To be fair, the event did draw a good number of people, especially for a SUB event, but the turnout hardly compared to the draw that the touring improv group usually receives from the Puma community.

According to the group's website, (www.missionimprovable.com), the original group formed at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and expanded from there, now having fifteen members who tour the country performing high-energy, slapstick improv shows. True to form, this very talented group of comedians delivered a fast-paced and exciting performance, getting the crowd actively involved from the very beginning and delivering laugh after laugh for two hours, a half hour longer than scheduled. For the

most part, the audience really seemed to enjoy the various skits and improv games that made up the set. One of the most notable of these involved taking everyday situations suggested by the audience, twisting them in some way, and then one comedian had to guess each scenario while the other comedians took turns acting it out and speaking gibberish - no normal conversational English allowed. The resulting hilarity proved to be the highlight of their show.

In addition to their exceptional comedic talent, the group proved to be unbelievably friendly and personable as well. After the show, they sold t-shirts, key chains, and various other Mission: Improvable memorabilia while chatting with SJC students about tours, merchandise, and the show itself. This improv group, in my opinion, is one of the best groups that SUB continues to bring to campus, and hopefully they will continue to be regulars on the SJC SUB circuit. Warning: This message will self-destruct in five...four...three...two...

Kairos Reflection

By Melissa Alba, Staff Writer

Time is what a Kairos retreat seeks to transcend. The word "kairos" comes from a Greek word relating to God's time, or time to be filled - as opposed to the Greek *chronos*, or measured time. My first Kairos retreat was October 28-31. If you asked me if I wanted to go on the retreat, I would have to say, "No. It's scary to go on something you know nothing about..." I had no idea where it was, where I was going, what was going to happen - I just went. Besides, I told a friend if she went, I'd go.

Nevertheless, if you asked me again if I wanted to go after going on it, my answer would be a solid, "Heck yeah! I loved it!" I'm really glad that I went, otherwise I would have missed a remarkable time. I met some new people. I found out what the initials B.T. stood for and met the amazing individual behind the name. I formed amazing new friendships with people who are so unique and wonderful that I could give each a hug right now if they were sitting next to me. I discovered more about myself. I renewed friendships with others that I knew before going on the retreat. It was a delicious experience and the food was great, too!

Coming back was a difficult thing to do because the atmosphere of Kairos and the community of friends was very welcoming and nice. Not only was the food great, the leaders of the retreat were also great! Their individual talks were all awe-inspiring and touched me in a way that words cannot even begin to illustrate. Props to them because the talks they gave took nerves of steel to do in front of a group of strangers.

Someday, I will be able to share my life graph, my experiences, and everything else that I usually keep to myself with a group of strangers for a weekend, and when the weekend is over, the group of strangers will have become a circle of friends whom I trust, care, and love. It's hard for me to open up, and writing this reflection is the first step I decided to take towards that goal of sharing. Not gonna lie, but I love my Kairos family! You all rock my socks off, and yes, it's the greatest day ever!

Turnaround Mission Complete

A Special Report from Ken Badylak

One year after being hired by Athletic Director Bill Massoels, Saint Joseph's College Head Football Coach Tim Lester finished the season with a winning record (7-4) for the first time since 1998.

Even though the season of 2-9 is erased from the memory banks of the Saint Joseph's College Community, the feeling of being the underdog will remain with the team. Lester explains the same humble approach needs to be instilled in his players for next season.



"You have to know what kind of ingredients you have before you know how good the soup can be."
Tim Lester

Lester likes to have ten receivers with ten catches per year. However, the Pumas had six players with over ten receptions: Grant Dean with nine, and with Corrie Gregory moving to defense and Austin Capi starting later in the season, the Pumas were not able to accomplish this goal.

January will be the beginning of off-season conditioning for the returning players. This is a time that is welcomed with anticipation by the coaching staff because it will be the first time for most of these players to focus and train for one sport the entire year.

Improvement with speed and strength will be

emphasized for a team that is compiled with freshman and sophomores, all in an effort to be ready for the bigger, stronger teams that comprised the schedule next season.

Other developments will include a strong push on the recruiting trail to get more depth on the defensive and offensive lines. The graduation of Place-kicker Brandon Deardorff and Punter/Tight End Justin Long will force the coaching staff to recruit another kicker to compete and work alongside Aaron Patten. Also, the Pumas will need to replace the void left by Long in the tight end position.

Like every recruiting season, the coaching staff will try to land good athletes to contribute to their system. Eventually, Lester would like to move to bringing in a new player for each position every year.

Through a national level, the NCAA is proposing to unify scholarship distribution across the board. Division II schools are allowed to award 24 or 36 scholarships. Saint Joseph's College is allotted 24 scholarships but other schools, like Ashland, have 36. The legislation has been proposed to make all Division II teams allowed 24 scholarships.

Nevertheless, this will be a slow process, but in the event that this proposal passes, it will level the playing field.

"There will be no excuses that a team shouldn't be able to compete," said Lester.

For next season, Lester is beginning to evaluate what players come back and what players they can bring in before he can make any goals. Much will depend on who actually shows up for the first day of training camp, but, needless to say, the goals will be set higher than this year.

Comparing the make-up of the Pumas to cooking soup,

Lester states, "You have to know what kind of ingredients you have before you know how good the soup can be."

Next season will also bring the Pumas one year closer to entering into conference play. Although the conference official season will not begin until 2006, the Pumas will play all the conference schools next season. Also, all teams will wear the conference patch on their jerseys and post-season awards will be given out to the players and coaches.

Being part of a conference will be in the representation for the Division II playoffs. All conferences have officials that meet near the end of the season to determine which teams will be selected for the playoffs. Independent schools do not have representation and the likelihood of them being noticed, let alone being selected for the playoffs, is slim.

With all that has been happening in college football and the numerous coaching changes, Lester explains that these types of things happen in phases. He continues to say that all coaches are really looking for two things: a college that wants the coach and an emotional connection with the program.

"Really, my emotional connection is here and with these players," said Lester. As long as a coach feels secure with the administration and his position, he will work his best to ensure that he can get the kids prepared to win.

Comments?
E-mail us at
amh4118@saintjoe.edu

Team MVPs

Offense: Quarterback Anthony Lindsey



56% Completion Percentage
2,415 Yards
24 Touchdowns
11 Interceptions
130.85 QB Rating

Defense: Linebacker Matt Abel

84 Tackles
18 Tackles for Loss
3.5 Sacks
3 Forced Fumbles
1 Fumble Recovery



Freshman: Wide Receiver Dan Paulsen



50 Receptions
897 Yards
17.9 Yards per Catch
11 Touchdowns

Coach Lou Wants YOU at These Upcoming Home Events

December 11

Women's Basketball vs Wisonsin Parkside 1:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Wisconsin Parkside 3:00 p.m.

December 20

Men's Basketball vs. Tiffin 5:30 p.m.



2004 Volleyball Season in Review

By Allison Segarra, Reporter

There is not just one word that can describe what the SJC volleyball team feels about this season. They said it was “progressive, inspirational, different, captivating, and spiritual.” Whatever it was, the girls never failed to “Go hard and get it up.”

The energy level of the team this year was definitely progressive. Junior Shelley Figiel commented, “We were always pumped for games and we became more and more aggressive and confident (as the season went on).” Junior Brittany Wikeriak added “When the whole team was talking we were unbeatable and an amazing sight to see.”

There were some ups and downs as far as enthusiasm went this season, but when it all came together it was, as the team says, “spiritual.”

What made this season different? First of all, the team had a different coaching staff. Head coach Linda Deno, has been a “positive influence on the team (especially the seniors) for the past four years,” senior Kathy Garrigan said. Wikeriak and Figiel agreed that Deno “brought the fun back into the game.” Figiel also felt that Deno “has so much confidence in our team, and really cares about us as people.”

Former player Beth Lipinski has been another integral part of the team this year. She said that the girls made her transition from player to assistant coach very easy. Garrigan said that it was fun to have Beth continue to be a part of the team’s growing success.

A second difference was the three new additions to the team. Stacey West, Melissa Rind, and Kristin Wroblewski all “gave a very bright light for the future, great competition to the returning players, and improved and adjusted well,” Lipinski said. Garrigan said that they had a chance to prove themselves, and they did just that. They will be a big part of volleyball team success next year.

Seniors Jill Mourey, Kristyn Corley, and Karen Miller said all of the underclassmen stepped it up to help accomplish team goals, like making it to the GLVC conference tournament. Figiel wants the underclassmen to know that they really are amazing, and have pulled the team together. “They are always willing to work hard and keep the team morale high.”

Inspiration this season came from dedicated fan support. At home there was never a doubt that the gym

would be full of rowdy fans and resounding cheers. The team would like to personally thank all of their “superfans,” including Taylor Treesh and his sidekick Frankenstein, the football guys in their matching team gear, the soccer team, the baseball team, and of course, the parents. Their parents traveled across the conference to support their girls.

Captivated is the word to describe how the team felt as they entered the conference tournament this season. The girls agreed that they were most proud of their team when they made it to the tournament this season, despite the fact that no one else in the conference thought they would.

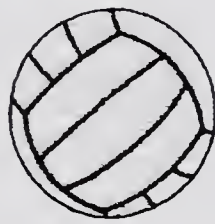
Although they lost their first game of the tournament to USI, who finished first in the conference and won the tournament, the team took sixth place with a conference record of 7-9. They proved that they are a winning team who deserved to be in the tournament.

It is always so hard to say goodbye to loving friends and respected teammates. The senior volleyball players Karen Miller, Jill Mourey, Kathy Garrigan, and Kristyn Corley have been described by their teammates as great leaders, friends, and volleyball players. They have been at the crux of

some of the best memories made on the court and off. They are gone from the game, but definitely will never be forgotten. They have been an inspiration to their teammates, especially the junior girls, who have spent three seasons bonding with them and building their team.

So are Erin Jones, Wikeriak, and Figiel ready to lead the team to a victorious season next year? All signs point to yes. According to their senior counterparts the juniors all have the experience and hunger they need to step up and lead the team. Jones said, “Next season we are looking to gain the respect we deserve from conference.” Garrigan’s advice to the juniors: “Work hard in the off-season and kick it off right, then we will see a lot of unearthed talent.”

Lipinski’s prediction for next season: “We got a taste of what we can do and we will have no mercy next year. We will be showing the conference how we play.”



Cummings Let Go

By Adam L. Mandon
Sports Editor

Saint Joseph’s College announced men’s and women’s Head Soccer Coach Rob Cummings was let go last month.

Cummings struggled in his two years at SJC, taking on the double duty of coaching the men’s and women’s squads. The men’s team staggered to a 7-26-4 record in two years, while the women’s team fared slightly better with a 14-21-5 record.

Senior Nicole Nowaczyk said, “It’s sad to see him go but the team knows it’s for the best. Hopefully it will bring a new beginning to an already great program.”

Nowaczyk has already played her final game as a Puma, as she will be graduating in May. But for the returning players, many are unsure of the program’s immediate future. Sophomore John Grigorakis believes a change needed to be made. “It was an unfortunate situation, but for the soccer team to move in the direction it needs to, a change had to be made.”

Steroids Begin the Asterisk Era

By Adam L. Mandon
Sports Editor

Remember how you felt when you were told Santa was a myth? Remember the sinking feeling in your stomach? You felt like there was the possibility there was no Santa, but that never stopped you from believing. Well this is how I feel about the news of Barry Bonds and Jason Giambi using steroids.

We as fans of baseball marvel at the accomplishments of athletes. We all find some type of refuge, a sense of purity, and peace in watching Barry Bonds club a ball so far and high into the night it scrapes the stars. If we’ve had a bad day, we flip on ESPN and take ourselves away from reality and into a sports realm where we marvel at the balance of brute strength and grace. But that was all taken away from us last week when Jason Giambi and Bonds admitted to taking steroids.

Jason Giambi constantly denied he used performance enhancing drugs. But the New York Yankees first baseman fessed up just last week by admitting he used steroids

during his 2000 Most Valuable Player season with the Oakland Athletics. We all accused him of looking slimmer this spring, but he quickly responded that he was on a new diet. I guess the only thing that clears him is that he came clean and finally admitted he used performance enhancing drugs, unlike Barry Bonds.

Barry Bonds says he unknowingly used steroids. How can you not know? If I take cough syrup, I’m looking at the back and checking out the side effects. Bonds is a professional athlete whose body makes him million of dollars. Don’t you think he would really monitor his body a bit more closely? My gosh, we’re talking about injecting a chemical substance into your body.

These guys are cheats and frauds. How can we really gauge how good these guys are? Bonds was a good player

in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He’d hit between 20 and 30 round-trippers, hit around .300, and steal 40 bases. But is his latest surge of power due to the steroids? I would resoundingly answer yes. The guy is over 40 years old and he is better now than



Barry Bonds in his rookie season compared to 2004.

he was as a player in his mid 20s? I don’t buy it.

Now comes the debate over whether or not Bonds is a Hall-of-Famer. I would have to believe he is heading to Cooperstown the first time the

ballot says Barry Lamar Bonds on it. But an asterisk should lie beside his name for all of eternity. No one can take Bonds’ accomplishments. We have all witnessed them over the last three decades. However, we’re all left wondering how good Bonds

really is. Instead of approaching Henry Aaron’s record of 755 homeruns, would he instead be a slimmed out ballplayer who averaged 35 homeruns a year and stole 60 bases? I guess we’ll never know.

This absolutely sickens me.

Baseball has always been the purest sport. Clean cut grass, finely manicured infield dirt, and beautiful summer sunshine has made baseball the king of all sports. But arguably the game’s greatest player to ever

step to the plate has ruined the game he owns. He has spit in the face of every eager child in America looking to get into the game.

But, for some reason, there is more to this than just baseball. Athletes who use steroids are only putting themselves in jeopardy. Although former Houston Astros third baseman Ken Caminiti was an abuser of cocaine, he shortened his life dramatically just to win at all costs. This is extremely sad. Guys like Giambi and Bonds will die in 20 years. And for what? To be able to say you cheated your way to greatness? Seems to me it’s not worth it.

You may not believe me, but I’ll take a David Eckstein over a Bonds any day. I cheer for guys who respect the game. Give me Derek Jeter over Giambi in his prime.

So let’s now start the age of the asterisk. All the awards won by cheaters should remain in their name. But the first sports almanac published for 2005 should have an asterisk beside each number. These cheaters should pay for ruining the game of baseball.

